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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,705	01/19/2005	Boon Khian Ching	SG 020015	2626

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EXAMINER

IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3765

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,705

Applicant(s)

CHING ET AL.

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-8 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,9,10 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The examiner is appreciative of the changes made to the language of the claims. These have been duly noted and considered.

CLAIMS

Summary

Claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims under consideration in this Office action.

Claims 2-6 and 8-12 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,4,5-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Netten et al. (5,642,579).

Netten et al. teach an electric steam iron having a housing and a soleplate 2, which includes outlets 20 for steam thereon (figure 1, for example). A steam chamber 12 is provided as a means for generating steam, which exits through the steam outlets 20. Further, the iron is provided with a detecting means or sensor 24 for detecting the presence of an article being ironed by detecting the temperature of the article as the

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sensor is passed thereover. The detector is connected to a control means 16, which uses the signal taken from the sensor, and controls the amount of steam being formed. Specifically, the sensor produces an article temperature signal and the control processes the signal, which actuates a water-feeding pump 10. The water pump is operable in response to a pump activation signal derived from the signal from the fabric temperature sensor (from column 2, lines 63-65). When the temperature of the fabric is detected as "low", the water is fed to the steam generator and steam is passed through the soleplate for wetting and heating the fabric. When the fabric reaches a desired detected temperature, the steam generation is stopped. In this way, the detector signal controls the delivery or formation of steam in the steam iron. Further, Netten et al. teach a motion detector (column 3, line 50) and/ or the use of a infra red (light emitter/ photosensitive receiver) detector (column 4, line 64) for detecting a motion of the iron or the presence of the fabric and controlling the steam production or delivery in response to the motion of the iron or presence of the fabric.

Remarks

Applicant notes that the prior art document to Netten et al. is not anticipatory since the detector does not detect the presence of a fabric but detects the temperature of the fabric. This document teaches a sensor which is in contact with an article being ironed. The article being ironed has a particular temperature; this could a low temperature or a high temperature. The article must be present and in contact so as to have an "influence" on the sensor. If the iron were on its heel, no article temperature would be measured and thus no article would be sensed. Netten et al. '579 teach that

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as soon as the soleplate 2 touches the cool cloth the relatively low temperature of the cloth is sensed by the fabric temperature sensor (from column 5, lines 7-10).

Accordingly, the cloth is being sensed (its presence) since the temperature of the cloth is being sensed, if the cloth were not there then the temperature of the cloth is not sensed. In view of the above, Netten et al. remains anticipatory to the claim as presented.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Naidoo (4,980,981).

Naidoo teaches an electric iron comprising a housing and a pressing means for pressing the wrinkles off a garment as the garment is fed to the ironing means. Naidoo teaches the iron as including a movable ironing soleplate means comprising wrinkle-removing sets of fingers 85 and a set or rotatable pressing rollers 71. Further, Naidoo teaches sensing means (immediately above character number 49 in figure 4) and a control means working together for detecting a garment being presented to the ironing machine and controlling a function of the ironer. From column 7 lines 15-66, the ironing machine comprises a fabric identifying imaging means which scans the particular article at the ironing zone to register an image thereof and generating a signal representative thereof. As an alternative, a mark or a code is provided on garment hanger, which supports the garment, and the sensor is used to identify the garment. The signal that is generated is fed to the control means and used for controlling the application of steam to the garment (column 7, lines 29-36). Accordingly, the sensor senses or scans the

presence of a garment when it is passed to and through the ironing zone and controls steam production or delivery onto the garment for aiding in removing the wrinkles.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2,3,5,9,10 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Menhennett et al. illustrate a device for building an article where a heated pin is provided and a sensor, which senses the article being built, and spraying more building material in response to the signal generated. Hazan et al. '060 illustrate an iron including a detector for detecting a fabric and specifically the type of fabric being ironed. Hennuy et al. Illustrate a steam iron including a temperature detector on the soleplate, which allows fluid to enter the steam chamber in relation to a soleplate temperature. Hazan et al. '859 illustrate an iron including a motion detector and a humidity detector.


INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (571) 272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ismael Izaguirre
Primary Examiner
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